

Message Text

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ACTION SY-02

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SSO-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SS-14 NSC-07 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1369

INFO DA WASHDC//DAMO-IAS//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SN

SUBJ: LT. LEE'S VISIT TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY

SUMMARY: GOS HAS JUST ADVISED EMBASSY THAT LT LEE HSIEN LOONG (P.M. LEE'S SON) HAS JUST ARRIVED AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY FOR A WEEK'S VISIT. IN VIEW OF REPORTS OF RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN BOSTON, PRIME MINISTER IS CONCERNED OVER SON'S SAFETY AND HAS REQUESTED APPROPRIATE SECURITY GUIDANCE AND POSSIBLE PROTECTIVE MEASURES IF CAMBRIDGE POLICE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY.
END SUMMARY.

1. ONG SENG CHYE, CHIEF OF GOS PROTECTIVE SERVICE WHICH IS ROUGH EQUIVALENT TO US SECRET SERVICE, HAS MADE URGENT REQUEST TO EMBASSY REGARDING SAFETY OF PRIME MINISTER'S SON, LT. LEE HSIEN LOONG, WHO ARRIVED IN BOSTON AREA OCTOBER 10 FOR ONE WEEK STAY (OCT. 10-18) AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY. PRIME MINISTER BECAME QUITE CONCERNED OVER LT. LEE'S SAFETY AFTER HEARING BROADCAST EVENING OCTOBER 10 CONCERNING RACIAL RIOTS IN BOSTON.

2. ONG, WHO PRESUMES AMBASSADOR MONTEIRO IS NOT AWARE THAT LT. LEE IS NOW IN BOSTON, HAS ASKED DEPARTMENT TO CONTACT CAMBRIDGE POLICE AND ADVISE THEM OF LT. LEE'S PRESENCE AT HARVARD. ONG HAS ASKED THAT CAMBRIDGE POLICE, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE
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AUTHORITY, BRIEF LEE ON DANGER AREAS IN BOSTON

AND ADVISE LEE ON ACTIONS HE SHOULD AND SHOULD NOT TAKE DURING HIS STAY IN BOSTON AREA. GOS WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF CAMBRIDGE OR BOSTON POLICE WOULD TAKE ANY OTHER STEPS THEY CONSIDER NECESSARY TO ENSURE SAFETY OF LT. LEE, IN LIGHT OF THEIR DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF RIOTING. ONG WAS INFORMED THAT HARVARD UNIVERSITY IS IN CAMBRIDGE AND THAT RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE OCCURRED PRIMARILY IN ROXBURY AREA OF BOSTON SEVERAL MILES AWAY. THEREFORE IT WAS MOST UNLIKELY THAT LT. LEE IS IN ANY DANGER.

3. APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS AGO WILLIAM OLNEY, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AT HARVARD, DURING BRIEF VISIT TO SINGAPORE TO PROMOTE HARVARD'S EAST ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM, ADVISED CHARGE THAT PRIMIN LEE HAD WRITTEN SEVERAL LETTERS TO HARVARD FACULTY INDICATING HIS INTEREST IN HAVING HIS SON VISIT HARVARD IN MID-OCTOBER AND REQUESTING THAT THEY DEVELOP A PROGRAM FOR HIM. OLNEY SAID PROFESSORS RICHARD NEUSTADT (HISTORY) AND JEROME COHEN (ASIAN LEGAL STUDIES) HAD RECEIVED SUCH LETTERS. EMBASSY DID NOT REPORT THIS BECAUSE CHECK BY ONG SENG CHYE WITH PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARY REVEALED THAT LT. LEE DID NOT AGREE WITH PROPOSED VISIT TO HARVARD, AND THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE ADVISED IF THERE WAS ANY CHANGE IN LT. LEE'S PLANS. APPARENTLY LEE SUBSEQUENTLY ACCEDED TO HIS FATHER'S WISHES AND GOS EITHER FORGOT OR DECIDED NOT TO INFORM THIS EMBASSY. HOWEVER, NEWS OF DEMONSTRATIONS CAUSED PRIMIN TO CHANGE HIS MIND. ONG SENG CHYE SAID THAT REGRETTABLY NO ONE IN GOS KNEW WHERE LT. LEE WAS STAYING IN CAMBRIDGE. HOWEVER, CHARGE RECALLS THAT OLNEY SAID PRIMIN LEE HAD ASKED PROF. ALAN HEIMERT (MASTER OF ELIOT HOUSE) IF HE WOULD ARRANGE FOR LT. LEE'S ACCOMMODATIONS AT ELIOT HOUSE.

4. ONG ALSO REQUESTED DEPT TRY TO ASCERTAIN IF LT. LEE WILL INDEED DEPART BOSTON ON OCTOBER 18 TO RETURN TO FORT SILL AND, IF SO, FLIGHT NUMBER ON WHICH LEE WILL DEPART.

5. ONG AGREED GIST OF ABOVE SHOULD BE PASSED TO AMBASSADOR MONTEIRO.

6. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES DIFFICULTY AT THIS LATE DATE IN ARRANGING FOR DISCREET SECURITY SURVEILLANCE AND PROTECTION FOR LT. LEE WHILE HE IS AT HARVARD. HOPEFULLY, DEPT CAN ARRANGE
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SOME KIND OF SECURITY GUIDANCE AND, IF LOCAL POLICE BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE, SOME DISCREET PROTECTIVE SURVEILLANCE FOR LT. LEE. HOWEVER, IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, BELIEVE INFORMATION FROM MASTER OF ELIOT HOUSE OR OTHER UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS THAT LEE IS WELL, SAFE AND OUT OF RANGE OF ANY VIOLENCE WOULD RELIEVE PRIME MINISTER'S MIND. REQUEST DEPT ADVISE SOONEST.
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